

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT O 02313 101950Z  
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10  
NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 FBIE-00 SY-05 /064 W  
-----031547 112027Z /61

R 101946Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2792  
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN  
AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN  
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

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CARACAS FOR LEGATT

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, PINR, TD  
SUBJECT: POLICE COMMISSIONER RESIGNS

1. FOLLOWING SEVERAL WEEKS OF RUMORS OF POSSIBLE CORRUPTION  
AND OF AN IMPENDING SHAKEUP IN THE UPPER LEVELS OF THE  
POLICE SERVICE, POLICE COMMISSIONER ANTHONY MAY HAS  
SUDDENLY ANNOUNCED HIS RETIREMENT, EFFECTIVE AUGUST 8.  
THE PRESS HAS QUOTED THE 58-YEAR-OLD MAY AS STATING THAT  
HIS PREMATURE RETIREMENT WAS "ON PERSONAL GROUNDS - I DO  
NOT LIKE WHAT IS TAKING PLACE IN THE SERVICE. I AM JUST  
FED UP".

2. IT HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED THAT THE 48-YEAR-OLD J.L. "JIM"  
RODRIGUEZ, A FORMER DEPUTY POLICE COMMISSIONER WHO NOW IS  
SERVING AS SPECIAL ADVISOR (PROTECTIVE SERVICES) TO THE  
MINISTER OF NATIONAL SECURITY, WILL SUCCEED MAY IN  
OCTOBER, AFTER COMPLETING CERTAIN PROJECTS IN WHICH HE,  
RODRIGUEZ, CURRENTLY IS ENGAGED. IN THE INTERIM, DEPUTY  
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COMMISSIONER (CRIME) RANDOLPH BURROUGHS, ALSO 48, WILL  
SERVE AS ACTING COMMISSIONER.

3. THE POLICE SERVICE HAS HELD SOMETHING OF A FAVORED  
POSITION AMONG THE PROTECTIVE SERVICES IN T&T EVER SINCE IT  
REMAINED UNSWERVINGLY LOYAL TO THE GOVERNMENT DURING THE  
1970 DISTURBANCES. IN RECENT MONTHS THE GOVERNMENT HAS

CALLED ON RETIRED TOP POLICE OFFICIALS TO INVESTIGATE AND/OR ADMINISTER PROBLEM AREAS OF THE BUREAUCRACY, A TREND THAT HAS ALARMED CERTAIN OPPOSITION POLITICIANS IN PARTICULAR. NEVERTHELESS, VAGUE RUMORS OF POLICE CORRUPTION HAVE CIRCULATED IN THE PRESS OF LATE (ONE ACTING ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER, IVAN LLOYD, HAS BEEN SUSPENDED AND THEN RETIRED) AND THE CABINET REPORTEDLY HAS APPOINTED A TEAM TO LOOK INTO THE SITUATION AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REORGANIZING THE POLICE FORCE.

4. COMMENT. NO ONE HAS SUGGESTED PUBLICLY THAT MAY HIMSELF HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN THE ALLEGED CORRUPTION, AND OUR POLICE CONTACTS APPEAR TO ACCEPT AT FACE VALUE THE VAGUE REASONS HE HAS GIVEN FOR RETIREMENT - NO DOUBT THEY KNOW MUCH MORE THAN THEY ARE WILLING TO SAY ABOUT MAY'S REFERENCE TO "WHAT IS TAKING PLACE IN THE SERVICE". IT APPEARS LIKELY THAT INTRA-POLICE POLITICS AND RIVALRIES PLUS WHAT MAY MAY CONSIDER UNWARRANTED GOVERNMENT MEDDLING IN HIS AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY ALSO HAVE INFLUENCED THE TIMING OF HIS RETIREMENT. IN ANY EVENT, BOTH RODRIGUEZ AND THE FLAMBOYANT BURROUGHS HAVE VERY GOOD REPUTATIONS LOCALLY, AND MAY'S DEPARTURE SHOULD NOT IN ITSELF CAUSE ANY PROBLEMS IN POLICE MORALE OR EFFICIENCY. O'MAHONY

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CORRUPTION, POLICE FORCES, PERSONNEL RESIGNATIONS, ALLEGATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 10 aug 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978PORTO02313  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780329-0431  
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**Message ID:** ebc75b65-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
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**Review Content Flags:**  
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**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
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**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1778357  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** POLICE COMMISSIONER RESIGNS  
**TAGS:** PINT, PINR, TD, (MAY, ANTHONY)  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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